

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

/177 W

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R 121732 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4468

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BONN 5421

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, US, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO US TRADE BILL

1. SUMMARY: THE INITIAL GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE US TRADE BILL HAS CONCENTRATED ON THREE POINTS: 1) THE PRESIDENT' S DESIRE FOR UNPRECEDENTED NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY, 2) THE ADMINISTRATION' S DETERMINATION TO PRESS FOR MORE LIBERAL WORLD TRADE, AND 3) THE BILL' S PROVISIONS PERMITTING UNILATERAL RESRICTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE " FAIR" AND " JUST" COMPETITION FOR AMERICAN INDUSTRY. MOST REPORTING HAS SO FAR BEEN STRAIGHT
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FORWARD AND OBJECTIVE, THOUGH SOME FEATURES OF THE BILL HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH IN GREATER DETAIL THAN OTHERS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE NEWSPAPERS LED WITH COMMENTS ON THE BROAD NEGOTIATING POWERS SOUGHT BY THE PRESIDENT. STATED OR IMPLIED IN MOST ARTICLES WAS ADMIRATION FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE BILL " WHICH ENABLES BOTH THE PROTECTIONIST AND FREE TRADE FORCES IN CONGRESS TO APPROVE MOST OF ITS PROVISIONS." (RHEINISCHE POST). DIE WELT PREDICTED PASSAGE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. YET MOST REPORTS FORESAW CONSIDERABLE AND VIGOROUS DEBATE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST FOR SWEEPING AUTHORITY WOULD FUEL THE CURRENT DISPUTE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS AS TO THE PROPER DIVISION OF GOVERNING POWERS.

3. ALL THE NEWSPAPERS EMPHASIZED THAT, IN HIS TRADE MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT FULLY SUPPORTED FREE AND OPEN TRADE. THEY CALLED ATTENTION TO THE BILL' S REQUEST FOR POWERS TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN TARIFF AND NON- TARIFF BARRIERS IF THE US' S TRADING PARTNERS ARE WILLING TO RECIPROCATATE.

4. NEVERTHELESS, MOST REPORTS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE BILL' S PROVISIONS PERMITTING RETALIA- TION AGAINST " UNFAIR" AND " UNJUSTIFIED" TARIFFS AND NTB' S AS WELL AS AGAINST COUNTRIES WHOSE SUBSIDIZED EXPORTS DISADVANTAGED AMERICAN SALES IN THIRD COUNTRIES. THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG EDITORIALIZED THAT THE PRESIDENT SEEMED UNCONCERNED THAT CERTAIN PROPOSED ACTIONS WERE NOT PERMITTED UNDER THE GATT. IT CON- TINUED THAT IF THE PRESIDENT OBTAINS THE REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO RAISE AS WELL AS LOWER TARIFFS, THE US WILL TRY TO USE IT AS A THREAT AGAINST EUROPE AND JAPAN IN THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THE HANDELSBLATT STRESSED THAT THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT WITH " NEW INSTRUMENTS", SUCH AS A TEMPORARY IMPORT TAX OR OTHER RESTRICTIVE MEASURES, TO BRING ABOUT AN " ADJUSTMENT IN THE DISEQUILIBRIUM IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM".

5. THE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS FOR DISPLACED UNCLASSIFIED

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LABOR, THE REQUEST FOR MFN TREATMENT FOR SOVIET GOODS,

AND THE REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A GENERALIZED PREFERENCE
SYSTEM WERE REPORTED BUT NOT EMPHASIZED. HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN05421
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, GW, US
To: BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EB
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PARIS
ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

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